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PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1992-1997*

MAJOR PROGRAMME V. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Programme 25. Global social issues and policies

1. The preparation, format and content of the medium-term plan and its revisions are governed by the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (ST/SGB/PPBME Rules/1(1987)).

2. Regulation 3.11 provides, inter alia, that the medium-term plan shall be revised as necessary every two years to incorporate required programme changes and that the proposed revisions shall be as detailed as required to incorporate the programme implications of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the intergovernmental organs or international conferences since the adoption of the plan.

3. The revisions proposed below modify the relevant parts of the narrative of programme 25, Global social issues and policies, of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, which was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/253 of 21 December 1990 and issued in document A/45/6/Rev.1. Owing to the biennial calendar of meetings of the Commission for Social Development, those revisions cannot be reviewed by the Commission in 1992.

4. The following text modifies paragraphs 25.1, 25.5, 25.7, 25.8, 25.10, 25.11, 25.16 and 25.20 to 25.23 of A/45/6/Rev.1.

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* After adoption by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, the complete revised medium-term plan will be issued in final printed form as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/47/6/Rev.1).

A. Programme

Paragraph 25.1 — Delete the reference to General Assembly resolution 40/100 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1983/8, 1983/22, 1985/21, 1985/26 and 1985/29, and add General Assembly resolutions 44/56, 44/65, 45/199, 46/90, 46/92 and 46/139 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/12.

Paragraph 25.5 — In the first sentence, after "in its capacity as" insert "nucleus within the United Nations Secretariat for all issues relating to social policy and social development, and".

Paragraph 25.7 — Replace paragraph 25.7 with the following:

"25.7 The structure of the subprogramme reflects the importance Governments give to the timely analysis of emerging social issues. The intention is to identify emerging problems at an early stage and to disseminate information that may be of direct interest to Governments when they seek to formulate policy. Two important issues that have emerged in recent years are highlighted: firstly, the need to reorient social policy in general, and social welfare policy in particular, to the different socio-economic environments of the 1990s, including the transition to market-based economies of the former centrally planned economies and the process of structural adjustment and market-oriented reform in many developing countries. That calls for greater emphasis, inter alia, on new forms of partnership between governmental and non-governmental agents, emphasis on participatory approaches to the delivery of services, more efficient management of public resources, closer international cooperation in social development activities and greater emphasis on implementation of agreed international plans of action. The second issue of growing concern is the institutional reform, especially through the strengthening of national and local capacities for social analyses and monitoring social policy formation and implementation, consensus-building and renewed emphasis on the basis of social networks and social institutions such as the family."

Paragraph 25.8 — In the first sentence, replace "Department of International Economic and Social Affairs" with "Department of Economic and Social Development". In the last sentence, delete "the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development,".

Paragraph 25.10 — Replace paragraph 25.10 with the following:

"25.10 Subprogrammes 1 and 3 are designated high priority."

B. Subprogrammes

SUBPROGRAMME 1. ANALYSIS OF EMERGING SOCIAL ISSUES

Paragraph 25.11 — Delete the reference to General Assembly resolution 40/100 and add resolutions 45/199 and 46/139.

SUBPROGRAMME 2. SOCIAL POLICY DESIGN, PLANNING AND COORDINATION

Paragraph 25.16 — Add a reference to Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/12.

SUBPROGRAMME 3. FAMILIES IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Paragraph 25.20 — Add a reference to General Assembly resolutions 45/133 and 46/92.

Paragraphs 25.21-25.23 — Replace paragraphs 25.21 to 25.23 with the following:

"25.21 Major demographic, economic and social changes have affected both the family as an institution and family members as individuals. In that context, Governments have expressed their concern to strengthen the family as a basic unit of society. This requires an understanding of the problems and the current and future role of the family as an institution in different socio-economic and cultural conditions, and also calls for an examination of national experience with family policy. Also required is the development of shared concepts, indicators and statistical data on families, especially in developing countries, in order to permit a clear understanding of emerging trends and issues regarding families.

"25.22 The general objectives of the subprogramme are the following:

"(a) To increase awareness of family issues among Governments, policy makers and the public;

"(b) To strengthen national capacity for the elaboration of policies and programmes, including systematic and integrated approaches to the design, implementation and evaluation of policies for families; to stimulate efforts to respond to problems affecting and affected by the situation of families;

"(c) To support the development and refinement of concepts and indicators concerning the social situation of families in order to strengthen the ability of Member States to gather data about trends and issues relating to the family.

"25.23 Activities will focus on preparations for the International Year of the Family (1994), on its observance and on suitable follow-up in the context of decisions taken as part of the observance. In particular, various promotional activities will be carried out in order to increase awareness on the role of the family and family issues; seminars and expert meetings will be convened to examine specific problems and to develop new approaches for strengthening the family; technical publications will be produced to promote among Governments a wider understanding of available approaches to family issues, including the gathering and analysing of data on families; information about policies and programmes related to families and their members will be analysed and discussed, giving particular attention to methods by which they may promote greater equality between women and men; integrated strategies for families and their members will be evaluated; the capacity to respond to requests for technical cooperation activities on family issues will be developed; and a network of support for family studies and activities undertaken by governmental and other agencies and organizations will be generated."